

In the Claims (clean copy as amended)

4. (Amended) The method for producing an aromatic compound isomer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the impurities in the desorbent are removed through any of distillation, purging or adsorption to a solid adsorbent.

5. (Amended) The method for producing an aromatic compound isomer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the impurities in the desorbent are removed by replacing a part of the used desorbent with an impurity-free fresh desorbent.

6. (Amended) The method for producing an aromatic compound isomer as claimed in claim 1, wherein all or part of the desorbent to be supplied to the adsorptive separation step is first continuously or intermittently supplied to a step of removing impurities from it, and then supplied to the adsorptive separation step.

7. (New) A method for producing an aromatic compound isomer substituted with alkyl group(s) and/or halogen atom(s), through adsorptive separation by the use of a zeolite-containing adsorbent and a desorbent, wherein the desorbent is, after having been processed for removing oxygen-containing or high boiling point compound impurities from it, supplied to the adsorptive separation step.

8. (New) A method for producing an aromatic compound isomer substituted with alkyl group(s) and/or halogen atom(s), through adsorptive separation by the use of a zeolite-containing adsorbent and a desorbent, wherein the desorbent is, after having been processed for removing impurities having an aldehyde group or a carboxyl group from it, supplied to the adsorptive separation step.

9. (New) A method for producing an aromatic compound isomer substituted with alkyl group(s) and/or halogen atom(s), through adsorptive separation by the use of a zeolite-containing adsorbent and a desorbent, wherein the desorbent is, after having been processed for removing impurities produced during adsorptive separation from it, supplied

to the adsorptive separation step.

10. (New) A method for producing an aromatic compound isomer substituted with alkyl group(s) and/or halogen atom(s), through adsorptive separation by the use of a zeolite-containing adsorbent and a desorbent, wherein the desorbent is, after having been processed for removing oxygen-containing or high boiling point compound impurities produced during adsorptive separation having an aldehyde group or a carboxyl group from it, supplied to the adsorptive separation step.

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